

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Fatollah Youssefifar :
Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned
For: PIPE COUPLINGS : Atty Docket: 20272/0700
:
:
:
:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

5. (Amended) A coupling according to claim 1, wherein said retainer includes at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on said pipe.

Please add the following new claims.

14. (New) A coupling according to claim 2, wherein said retainer includes at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on said pipe.

15. (New) A coupling according to claim 3, wherein said retainer includes at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on said pipe.

16. (New) A coupling according to claim 4, wherein said retainer includes at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on said pipe.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Burton A. Amernick (24,852)
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425
Telephone: 202-331-7111

Date: 1-23-02

APPENDIX – MARKED UP VERSION

5. (Amended) A coupling according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said retainer includes at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on said pipe.